Conference of State Urban Development Ministers

1953. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Conference of State Urban Development Ministers held recently in the Capital, the State Ministers have pointed out that the financial condition of most municipal bodies were pathetic and they are barely able to provide the basic minimum amenities to the people; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) In the two-day Conference of Ministers of Local Self Government and Urban Development of States and Union Territories was held at New Delhi on 17-18 January, 2000, various issues relating to Urban Development and Municipal Administration were discussed. The present state of financial condition of municipal bodies also figured in the discussion.

(b) As per Entry 5 of the State List of the Constitution, Local Government is a State subject. Therefore, it is for the concerned State Governments to take remedial steps to improve the financial conditions of municipal bodies. In order to assist the State Governments and Municipal Bodies, the Ministry of Urban Development is already operating Centrally Soponsored Schemes such as Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns; Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities; Low Cost Sanitation for liberation of Scavengers: Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, etc. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to State Governments, to improve the urban infrastructure to provide better civic facilities to the people.

Subletting of Minto Road Press Pool Quarters

1954. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of subletting of Minto Road Press Pool Quarters were detected during the last five years;

(b) in how many cases disciplinary proceedings were initiated; and

(c) in how many such cases, orders of the disciplinary authority were revised by the Director of Printing in his capacity of Revisionary Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) During the last five years, 77 cases of subletting of Minto Road Press Pool Quarters have been detected and in 68 such cases, possession has been taken back.

(b) Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated in one case.

(c) Orders of the disciplinary authority were revised by the Competent Authority in one case.

Maintenance of Raj Ghat

1955. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the black marble slab covering the final resting ground and Mahatma Gandhi has developed cracks and the famous spongy ""Raj Ghat Grass" is gradually disappearing;

(b) whether there has been no major renovation for nearly four decades except for small patch up work off and on;

(c) whether the complex has shrunk from 84 acres to 50 acres;

(d)whether the fund allocated by Government for Samadhi is spent on meeting establishment cost and paying salaries; and

(e) if so, what Govenment are doing in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Over the past four decades, Rajghat Samadhi has been maintained/ managed by the Rajghat Samadhi Committee. The Central Government have been providing annual grant to the said Committee. Its present amount is Rs. 90 lakh.

It is a fact that no major renovation has been done for the best several years and the present conditions of grass, water bodies and general upkeep are not what they should be for a monument of this structure.